

What is claimed is:

1. An identification card that carries information about one or more medical treatments, procedures or tests performed on a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

5 (a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of at least one medical treatment, test or procedure performed on the holder;

10 (3) a place and date on which the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure was performed on the holder;

(4) a health care provider that performed the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure on the holder; and

(5) if information representing a medical test performed on the holder is included in the computer-generated representation, a result of the medical

15 test; and

(b) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the holder in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of holders of identification cards.

20 2. An identification card that carries information about one or more medical treatments, procedures or tests performed on a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of at least one medical treatment, test or procedure performed on the holder;

(3) a place and date on which the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure was performed on the holder;

5 (4) a health care provider that performed the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure on the holder; and

(5) if information representing a medical test performed on the holder is included in the computer-generated representation, a result of the medical test; and

10 (b) a computer-readable code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information.

3. An identification card that carries information about one or more medication prescribed for a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

15 (1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of at least one medication prescribed for the holder;

(3) a place and date on which the at least one medication was prescribed for the holder;

(4) a health care provider that prescribed the at least one medication for
20 the holder; and

(b) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the holder in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of holders of identification cards.

4. An identification card that carries information about one or more medications prescribed for a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(1) a name of the holder;

5 (2) a name of at least one medication prescribed for the holder;

(3) a place and date on which the at least one medication was prescribed for the holder;

(4) a health care provider that prescribed the at least one medication for the holder; and

10 (b) a computer-readable code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information.

5. An identification card that carries information about one or more medical conditions diagnosed on a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

15 (1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of at least one medical condition diagnosed on the holder;

(3) a place and date on which the at least one medical condition was diagnosed on the holder;

(4) a health care provider that diagnosed the at least one medical condition on the holder; and

20 (5) if information representing a medical condition diagnosed on the holder is included in the computer-generated representation, a diagnosis of the medical condition; and

(b) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the holder in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of holders of identification cards.

6. An identification card that carries information about one or more medical conditions diagnosed on a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of at least one medical condition diagnosed on the holder;

10 (3) a place and date on which the at least one medical condition was diagnosed on the holder;

(4) a health care provider that diagnosed the at least one medical condition on the holder; and

15 (5) if information representing a medical condition diagnosed on the holder is included in the computer-generated representation, a diagnosis of the medical condition; and

(b) a computer-readable code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information.

7. A HIPAA compliant method for patient check-in at an office of a health care provider, comprising:

20 (a) providing a patient with an identification card that carries information about one or more medical treatments, procedures or tests performed on the patient, the identification card comprising a substrate that carries:

(1) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

- (a) a name of the patient;
- (b) a name of at least one medical treatment, test or procedure performed on the patient;
- (c) a place and date on which the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure was performed on the patient;
- (d) a health care provider that performed the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure on the patient; and
- (e) if information representing a medical test performed on the patient is included in the computer-generated representation, a result of the medical test; and

(2) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the patient in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of patients that hold identification cards;

(b) automatically scanning the encoded, computer-readable identification number

at the office of the health care provider when the patient arrives at the office, and automatically retrieving identification information and medical information about the patient from the database in response to the scanning; and

(c) automatically generating an image containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the image is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein generating further comprises printing a form containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the image is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein generating further comprises displaying on at least one of a computer screen or handheld device screen the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the screen is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

5 10. A HIPAA compliant method for patient check-in at an office of a health care provider, comprising:

 (a) providing a patient with an identification card that carries information about one or more medical treatments, procedures or tests performed on the patient, the identification card comprising a substrate that carries:

10 (1) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

 (a) a name of the patient;

 (b) a name of at least one medical treatment, test or procedure performed on the patient;

15 (c) a place and date on which the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure was performed on the patient;

 (d) a health care provider that performed the at least one medical treatment, test or procedure on the patient; and

 (e) if information representing a medical test performed on the patient is included in the computer-generated representation, a

20 result of the medical test; and

 (2) a computer-readable code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information;

(b) automatically scanning the computer-readable code at the office of the health care provider when the patient arrives at the office, and automatically retrieving identification information and medical information about the patient from the code in response to the scanning; and

5 (c) automatically generating an image containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the image is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein generating further comprises printing a form containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical
10 information, wherein the form is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein generating further comprises displaying on at least one of a computer screen or handheld device the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the screen is used by the
15 health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

13. A HIPAA compliant method for patient check-in at an office of a health care provider, comprising:

(a) providing a patient with an identification card that carries information about one or more medications prescribed for the patient, the identification card comprising a
20 substrate that carries:

(1) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(a) a name of the patient;

(b) a name of at least one medication prescribed for the patient;

(c) a place and date on which the at least one medication was prescribed for the patient;

(d) a health care provider that prescribed the at least one medication for the patient; and

5 (2) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the patient in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of patients that hold identification cards;

(b) automatically scanning the encoded, computer-readable identification number at the office of the health care provider when the patient arrives at the office, and
10 automatically retrieving identification information and medical information about the patient from the database in response to the scanning; and

(c) automatically generating an image containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the form is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

15 14. The method of claim 13, wherein generating further comprises printing a form containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the form is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

20 15. The method of claim 13, wherein generating further comprises displaying on at least one of a computer screen or handheld device the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the screen is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

16. A HIPAA compliant method for patient check-in at an office of a health care provider, comprising:

(a) providing a patient with an identification card that carries information about one or more medications prescribed for the patient, the identification card comprising a substrate that carries:

(1) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(a) a name of the patient;

(b) a name of at least one medications prescribed for the patient;

(c) a place and date on which the at least one medication was prescribed for the patient;

(d) a health care provider that prescribed the at least one medication the patient; and

(2) a computer-readable code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information;

(b) automatically scanning the computer-readable code at the office of the health care provider when the patient arrives at the office, and automatically retrieving identification information and medical information about the patient from the code in response to the scanning; and

(c) automatically generating an image containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the image is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein generating further comprises printing a form containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical

information, wherein the form is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein generating further comprises displaying at least one of a computer screen or handheld device the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the screen is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

19. A HIPAA compliant method for patient check-in at an office of a health care provider, comprising:

(a) providing a patient with an identification card that carries information about one or more medical conditions diagnosed on the patient, the identification card comprising a substrate that carries:

(1) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(a) a name of the patient;

(b) a name of at least one medical condition diagnosed on the patient;

(c) a place and date on which the at least one medical condition was diagnosed on the patient;

(d) a health care provider that diagnosed the at least one medical condition on the patient; and

(2) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the patient in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of patients that hold identification cards;

(b) automatically scanning the encoded, computer-readable identification number at the office of the health care provider when the patient arrives at the office, and automatically retrieving identification information and medical information about the patient from the database in response to the scanning; and

5 (c) automatically generating an image containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the image is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein generating further comprises printing a form containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical
10 information, wherein the form is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein generating further comprises displaying on at least one of a computer screen or handheld device the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the screen is used by the
15 health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

22. A HIPAA compliant method for patient check-in at an office of a health care provider, comprising:

(a) providing a patient with an identification card that carries information about one or more medical conditions diagnosed on the patient, the identification card comprising a
20 substrate that carries:

(1) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(a) a name of the patient;

(b) a name of at least one medical condition diagnosed on the patient;

(c) a place and date on which the at least one medical condition was diagnosed on the patient;

5 (d) a health care provider that diagnosed the at least one medical condition on the patient; and

(2) a computer-readable code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information;

(b) automatically scanning the computer-readable code at the office of the health
10 care provider when the patient arrives at the office, and automatically retrieving identification information and medical information about the patient from the code in response to the scanning; and

(c) automatically generating an image containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the image is used by the
15 health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein generating further comprises printing a form containing the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the form is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

20 24. The method of claim 22, wherein generating further comprises displaying on at least one of a computer screen or handheld device the retrieved identification information and the retrieved medical information, wherein the screen is used by the health care provider during an office visit by the patient.

25. A pet identification card that carries information about one or more vaccinations, medical procedures or tests performed on a pet wherein the pet is cared for by a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

5 (1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of the pet;

(3) a name of at least one of the pet's species, breed or gender;

(4) a name of at least one vaccination, medical test or procedure performed on the pet;

10 (5) a place and date on which the at least one vaccination, medical test or procedure was performed on the pet;

(6) a veterinarian health care provider that performed the at least one vaccination, medical test or procedure on the pet; and

(7) if information representing a medical test performed on the pet is included in the computer-generated representation, a result of the medical test; and

(b) an encoded, computer-readable identification number that uniquely identifies the pet in a database that stores medical information about a plurality of pets.

26. A pet identification card that carries information about one or more vaccinations, medical procedures or tests performed on a pet wherein the pet is cared for by a holder of the card, comprising: a substrate that carries:

(a) a human-readable, computer-generated representation of at least:

(1) a name of the holder;

(2) a name of the pet;

(3) a name of at least one of the pet's species, breed or gender;

(4) a name of at least one vaccination, medical test or procedure performed on the pet;

(5) a place and date on which the at least one vaccination, medical test or
5 procedure was performed on the pet;

(6) a veterinarian health care provider that performed the at least one vaccination, medical test or procedure on the pet; and

(7) if information representing a medical test performed on the pet is included in the computer-generated representation, a result of the medical test; and

10 (b) a computer-readable identification code that stores an encoded representation of the human-readable information.